

REAL ESTATE NEWS, CITY AND SUBURBAN

Richmond Realty Activity
Has Become Known in
Far Away India.

JUNE PROVED TO BE
RED LETTER MONTH

Sales Larger Than in Any Recent
Period of Like Duration.
Numerous Changes in Real
Estate Firms—Hot
Weather Activity
in Suburbs.

The Fourth of July week is never considered a good one, in a business way, for the average real estate dealer, who, like all the rest of humanity, likes his little outings and frolics, and who generally manages to be patriotic, at least enough so to take a day off either at the seaside or to the mountains. Then, too, he needs a rest from the tax collector, for about this season he has to foot tax bills for many constituents; and when he gets through with his semi-annual and quarterly statements on July 1st, and safely passes the tax period, no one needs or deserves a rest more than he. Hence the local real estate market felt the influences, and yesterday, and even today, a majority of the real estate fraternity were and are enjoying the sea breezes and mountain air; but they will bob up again and willingly tomorrow ready for business again.

In spite of these expected drawbacks there has been something doing, and the total sales of the week just closed foot up very nearly \$100,000, including suburban property, which is quite active.

Unusually Good June Business.

There has been, of course, much talk of dull times, but the figures show that the month just closed was a very busy one. The compilation of real estate clearings for the month of June, made by Mr. W. E. Purcell, Jr., of the firm of Blanton & Purcell, shows that the sales of realty last month were larger than they have been for any June within the last five years, and larger perhaps in the aggregate than any real estate agent would have dreamed of. Mr. Purcell's report of sales, as gathered from the record books of the clerks of the courts, furnishes the following information:

Sales within old city limits—	
Improved property	\$206,631
Vacant lots	194,381
Sales in annexed section—	
Improved property	60,200
Vacant lots	62,630
Sales of suburban lots	54,822
Sales of farms in Henrico county	42,572
Total	\$631,499

The number of deeds recorded in the Chancery Court in the month of June was larger than in any month within the recollection of the present clerk of that court, going something over 600. It is true that many of these deeds contained the selling and buying history of small lots and houses, and lots of the cheaper variety, but this is a good sign of the times. When men of small means are investing in homes it may be set down as a fact that the days of hard times are pretty well numbered.

Money Coming From India.

It is a far cry from India to "little old, old Richmond," but all the same the fame of the value of Richmond real estate has gone to that far away country. The Times-Dispatch man was yesterday shown a letter just received by Messrs. J. Thompson Brown & Co., from Kallimpong, Bengal, India. It was from a gentleman, a capitalist, who has read of the fame of Richmond, and has a desire to locate and invest here. The letter was dated, postmarked June 1st, and has been a solid month making its journey. Messrs. Brown & Co. think they have the goods to suit the gentleman of India, and they hope to land him and make him a citizen of Richmond in due time.

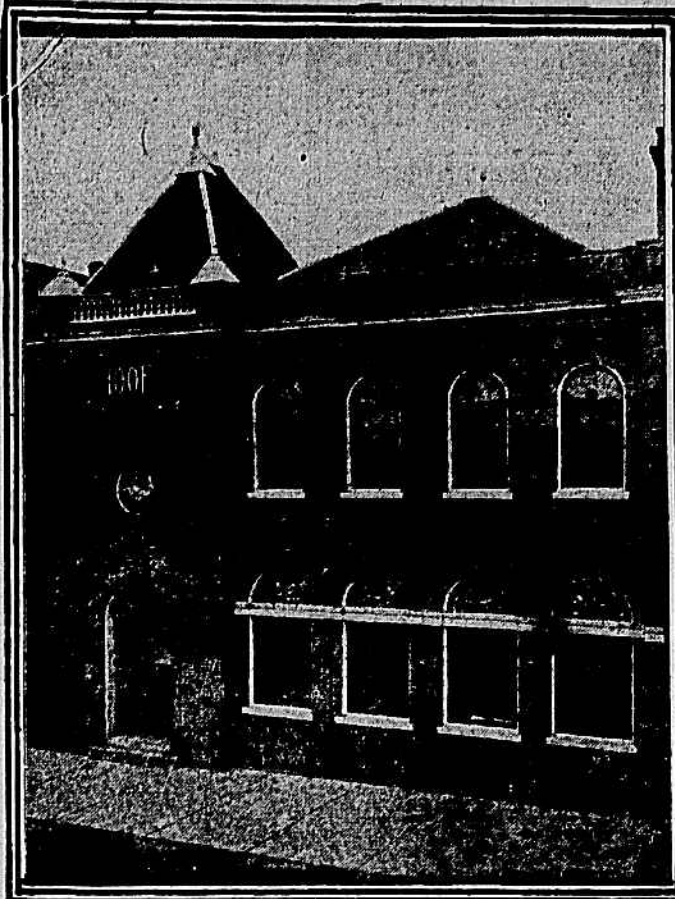
The sales last week were in the main of small property. Messrs. Blanton & Purcell report sales amounting to \$10,510. Messrs. Deyer & Ramsey made sales amounting to \$9,000. Messrs. J. A. Connelly & Co.'s sales reached the handsome figure of \$15,000. Messrs. N. W. Bowe & Son disposed of the development of asbestos mines near Bedford City, and a good deal was sold about \$12,000. The new firm of Richeson & Crutcheff made good sales, amounting in the aggregate to \$8,000. Messrs. Paine & Corling sold \$10,000 worth of good Richmond dirt, with improvements thereon. The J. C. Cheving Company has no complaints to make of business, having sold during the week something like \$8,000 of property. Other agencies report sales of like proportion, and the men who handle suburban property have made good sales all the week.

Old Hands at New Bellows.

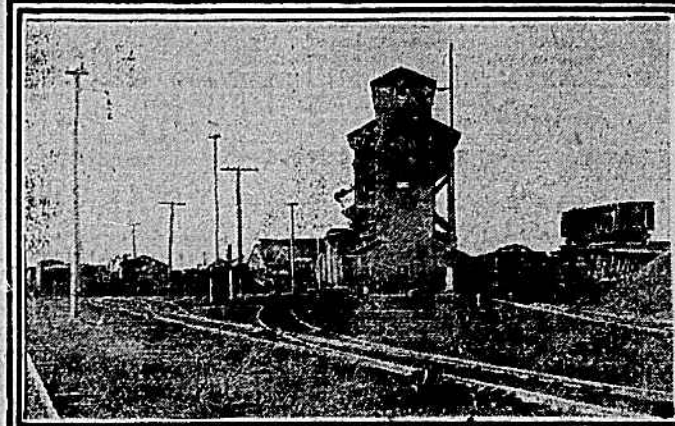
There have been several changes in real estate firms, taking effect July 1st. The firm of H. Selden Taylor & Co. has been dissolved by the withdrawal of Mr. Moseley, who has accepted a position with a prominent banker of this city. Mr. Moseley disposed of his interest to Mr. R. A. Paine, who was for a number of years connected with the First National Bank. The business will be continued under the name of Paine & Corling.

The firm of Crutcheff & Burnley has also been dissolved and a new concern formed. Mr. Henry T. Richeson, who for twenty-seven years was associated in one way and another with the firm, has withdrawn. Mr. R. A. Paine, who has been associated with the firm of Crutcheff & Burnley, has formed the concern of Richeson & Crutcheff, and will do a general real estate and rental business at No. 808 East Main Street. Mr. Richeson, while not an old man, is a veteran in the real estate business, having embarked therein twenty-seven years ago. He commenced in 1881, when quite a boy, with the firm of H. Selden Taylor & Co. His first position was that of collector and runner. Later he became bookkeeper

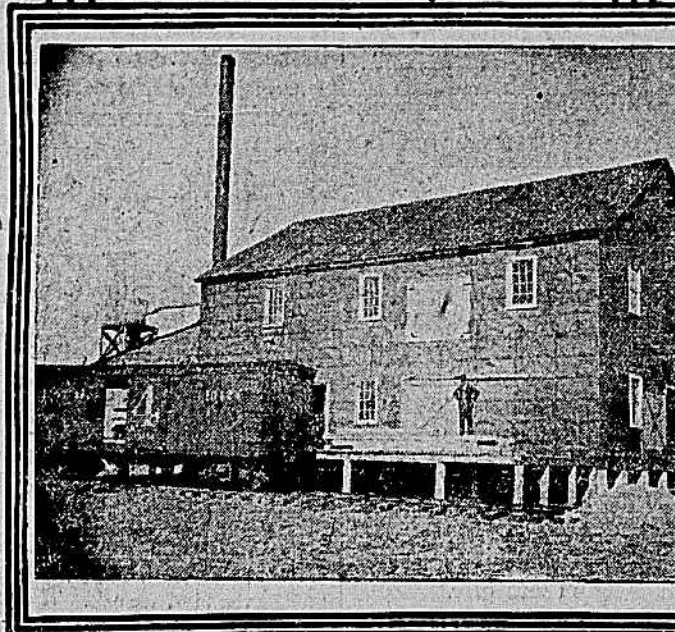
SCENES PICTURING BUSY LIFE IN CREWE



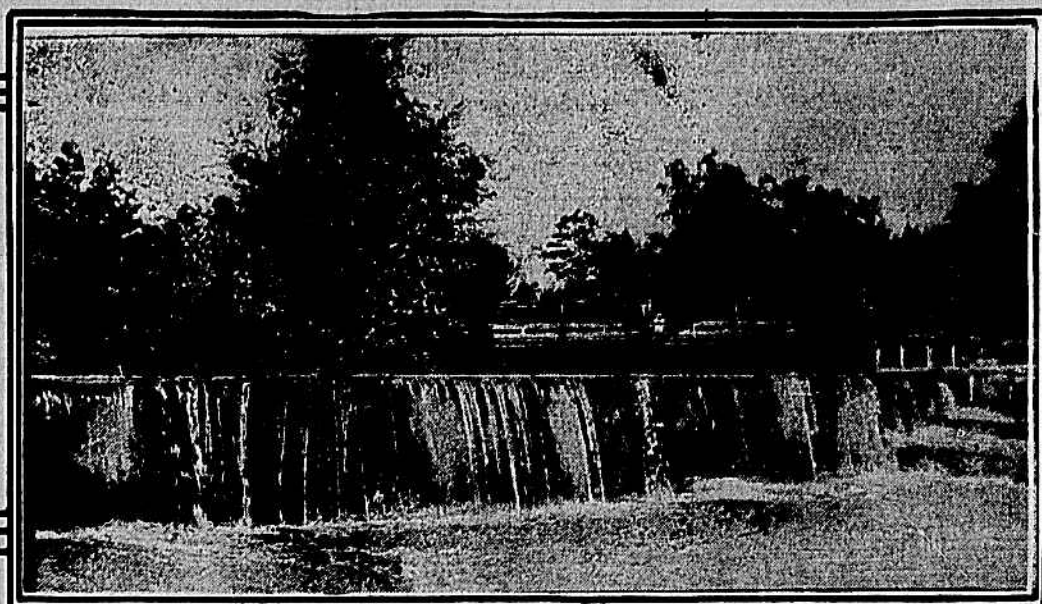
BANK OF CREWE



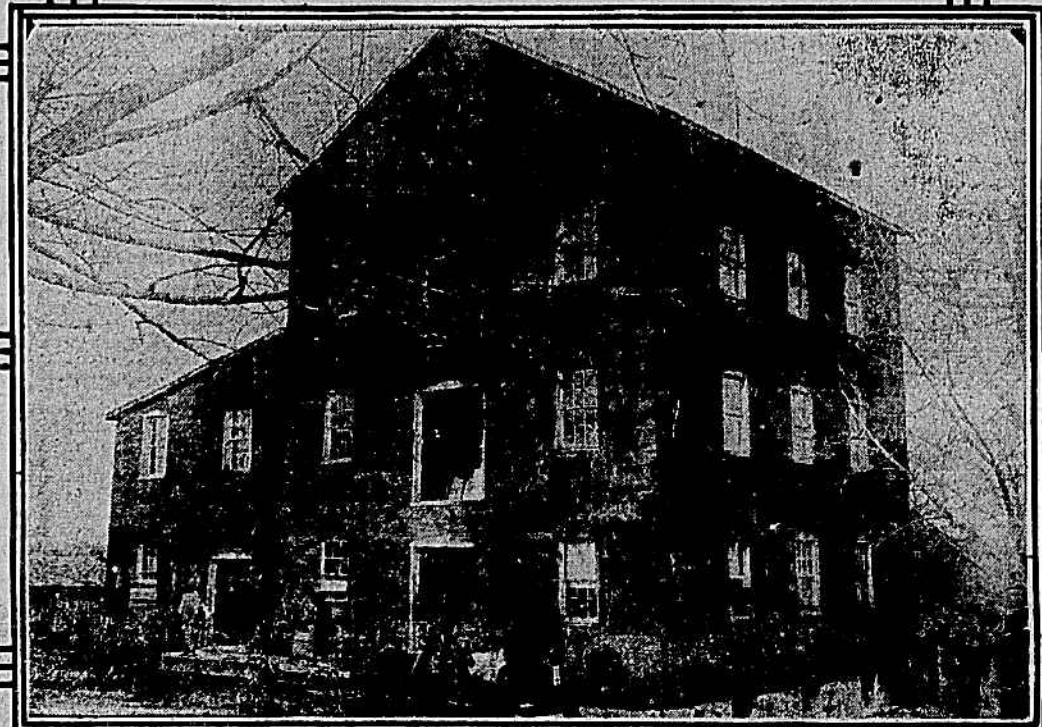
COAL ELEVATOR



CREWE LUMBER MFG CO



WATER POWER NEAR CREWE



CREWE ROLLER MILLS



PRINCIPAL BUSINESS STREET

HISTORY OF CREWE, WIDE-AWAKE TOWN

Born of Railway Shops in
Nottoway County Two
Decades Ago.

BRIGHT RECORD OF
JUST TWENTY YEARS

Twenty-Five Hundred Inhab-
itants—Large Churches, Splen-
did Schools—Social and Fra-
ternal Orders—Strong
Banks—Vigorous
Merchants.

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,
(Industrial Editor.)

CREWE, VA., July 4.—On the first day of July, 1888, the shops for the eastern division of the Norfolk and Western Railway were moved from Petersburg, where they had been since the early days of the old Southside Railroad, to an old field in Nottoway county along the railway track, and the place was named Crewe after a railway and shop town in England. That was the birth of the live and wide-awake town of Crewe of to-day from which I am now writing. When the railway company put in the sidings here, marked out the grounds for its extensive yards and for its shops, the marking was done in an old field that, but for an apple orchard nearby, would have been a barren waste. Indeed, all of it except the orchard, which was where the Y. M. C. A. building now stands, was very barren.

Without any flourish of trumpets or any ado about it, the railway people located the shops and established division headquarters here.

Before anybody outside of the inner circle knew what was going on, the roundhouse and the shop buildings were being erected and the apple orchard was made the headquarters of a hundred or more engineers, conductors, brakemen and other trainmen, who changed runs at this, the new end of the eastern division. For several months the trainmen camped in the orchard when off duty, and a jolly life they led that summer. They had bunks under the fruit trees and some of them occupied "upper berths" in the trees, which berths were improvised by laying of boards across the branches. On an old register, which is still in existence, the men used to record their arrivals, and their quarters or roosting places were given as "No. 1, red apple tree," "No. 5, sweetening apple tree," "No. 2, June apple tree," etc.

A Live Town Was Born.

That was the birth of Crewe, twenty years ago, and, of course, it was a foregone conclusion that it had to be a town of considerable importance, and along came the Virginia Land and Improvement Company, which bought up the land hereabouts and laid off the town into lots, making streets and avenues, lanes and alleys. The company also went to building houses, and by the first of the next year they had erected seventy-five dwellings and made arrangements for the housing of the railroad men and the business men who naturally came to the new town to open stores and other places of business.

That was twenty years ago, and Crewe has been growing ever since, until now it is one of the live and progressive towns that is making Old Virginia rich and proud, having 2,500 inhabitants, several flourishing industries, in addition to the busy railway shops and roundhouse, and twenty-five stores, among them some hardware and well-stocked furniture, clothing, dry goods, department, grocery, drug, hardware and general stores as are to be found anywhere in the country.

The place has very many handsome residences, and cozy cottages, well-made churches, well-worked out large and handsome churches, a splendid high and graded school, a flourishing Y. M. C. A., which owns a commodious and well-equipped building and intends soon to erect a better and larger one, and various other institutions and enterprises that go to make up a delightful home town.

Among the enterprises not already named are flouring mills, planing mills, shops of various kinds, and two strong and ably conducted banks.

Big Work Now Ahead.

There was no formal celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the town's birth last Wednesday, but on the night before there was held in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. an enthusiastic meeting of the business men of the place, and as a kind of celebration of its birthday the Board of Trade of Crewe was organized, and the business men pledged each other that from now on, at least for the next twenty years, there shall be greater hustling in Crewe than there has been even for the first twenty of its young life. The Board of Trade was organized to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary it shall be a much larger town than now, and certainly by the time the thirtieth birthday shall come it shall be a great Virginia city.

It does not require the spectacles of the one-eyed man of an over-enthusiastic optimist to see these good things in store for Crewe. They can be seen with the naked eye, for the energy is here, the far-sighted business men are here, the men who are going to make the raw material for various kinds of manufacturing enterprises is here and in easy reach; the water power is convenient, and altogether there is everything to make an optimist look forward to great things to grow in the sand hills of old Nottoway county, of which Crewe is the busiest and perhaps the largest town.

Enterprise of the Railway Company.

As matters now stand, the railway shops are, of course, the largest industry in Crewe, and around them the town was built. But for the shops there probably would have been no Crewe. Under normal conditions the shops require the daily attention of 200 expert workmen, machinists, engine cleaners, car repairers, carpenters, etc., all of whom get big wages.

Crewe being the headquarters of the end of the Eastern Division of the

NO ASBESTOS FROM VIRGINIA MINES

Statement of Geological Survey
Shows That They Were
Inactive.

Times-Dispatch Bureau,
Manassas Building,
Washington, D. C., July 4.

No asbestos was produced in Virginia last year, although more or less of the mineral has been put on the market from Virginia every year for a number of years. A few years ago a company undertook the development of asbestos mines near Bedford City, and a good deal was said about the extensive plans for mining deposits not far from the Peaks of Otter. But the mines furnished no asbestos last year and the mines near Rocky Mount, in Franklin county, were also inactive, according to a statement just issued from the Geological Survey.

The Bedford asbestos mines are on the Hubbard farms, twelve miles south of Bedford City, and are spread over two areas, one of about two acres and the other of five acres.

The asbestos rock is of two types. One type, like that of Salt Mountain, Georgia, is composed essentially of fibrous amphibole, and the other is a peridotite composed chiefly of a granular mineral, which appears to be olivine, with numerous secular crystals and fibrous bundles of anthophyllite.

This rock is cut also by occasional planes of shearing, along which there have been developed wulffite masses of slip fibre, which lie parallel to the plane of shearing. These are the masses that attract the attention of

the prospectors, and are the parts that have been mined out. They are locally eighteen inches in thickness, and have a length along the strike of about thirty feet. How far they have been followed in depth is not known. These masses of slip fibre are very irregular, and as far as yet known, of so small extent as to furnish a very unreliable basis of mining operations. A small quantity—forty tons of slip fibre has been mined near Rocky Mount, in Franklin county.

All of the asbestos-bearing rocks of the Rocky Mount region are practically amphibolite. Locally it contains some olivine, and is much altered to chlorite and serpentine. In none of the outcrops prospected does the amphibolite contain a sufficiently large percentage of asbestos to indicate clearly the probability of profitable mining.

There are two belts of amphibolite lying between masses of mica schist, which has remarkably regular cleavage, so that it can be split into thin slabs yards in extent, and has been nearly quarried for curbing and flagging. The schistose structure is not nearly so prominent in the amphibolite as in the neighboring mica schist.

BITUMINOUS PAYING.

Richmond House Doing Great Work in the Carolinas—Large Contract Closed.

The Atlantic Bituminous Company, of this city, have just been awarded a very large contract, amounting to something like \$200,000, for laying bituminous pavements in the streets of Columbia, S. C. Last fall this city awarded a contract for brick paving, but the material failed to come up to specifications, and the contract was canceled. After a thorough and complete investigation of the merits of all paving materials, the contract was awarded to the Atlantic Company, bituminous pavement. The motion in the City Legislature in favor of bituminous as the best permanent street pavement was unanimously carried.

This company has also just completed a contract for the paving of the streets of Salisbury and Goldsboro, wide-awake towns in North Carolina.

URBANNA MASONS HAVE CELEBRATION

Lodge No. 83 Celebrates Festival
of St. John in Royal
Manner.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

URBANNA, VA., July 4.—UrbanNA Lodge No. 83, A. F. and A. M., celebrated the festival of St. John in a truly elegant style. About seventy members of the fraternity were present, thirty-five of forty of whom were visiting brethren from various other lodges, who having chartered a boat, left Norfolk early that morning and arrived at Urbanna about 7 P. M. At the head of the Norfolk delegation was Mr. E. H. Barlick, worshipful master of Elizabeth Lodge, No. 34. He was presented to the lodge and performed the work of conferring the master's degree.

After the work of the lodge was completed the brethren repaired to the banquet hall, which presented a most attractive and inviting appearance. The tables were tastefully arranged and beautifully decorated with flowers. The brethren, seated around the festive board, enjoyed the sumptuous and abundant repast, which was served while listening to and applauding the number of fine speeches which were delivered.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable event, and as the wee small hours approached it was with regret that the members of UrbanNA Lodge realized that they would have to bid adieu to the visiting brethren, among whom were: W. H. Barlick, worshipful master; R. A. Patworth, A. F. Scott, P. Colan, Jr., E. S. Norton, past master; George T. Powell, G. C. Paville, past master; George L. Marshall, C. M. Naltinger, T. Colander, Sr., L. C. Armstrong, E. F. White, past master; H. R. Fritchard, past master, and H. A.

BUILDING IN NORFOLK

Work Done During the Year Amounting to \$2,000,000.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NORFOLK, VA., July 4.—During the past fiscal year the building operations in Norfolk totaled nearly \$2,000,000. Of this amount just \$533,850 was expended on residences, a total of 460 permits having been issued by the Building Inspector; 127 of the houses were of brick and the remainder of frame structures.

During the month of June building operations were fairly steady, a total of ninety-one permits being issued, and the outlay placed at \$132,625. Nineteen of these were for brick structures and thirty for frame dwellings. There were twenty-two permits for alterations and repairs, totaling \$14,475.

BUILDING AT PALMYRA

New Bank Nearing Completion, and Other Work Going Ahead.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

PALMYRA, VA., July 4.—The new bank building will soon be finished, work on Mr. Ashby Haden's residence is being pushed, and the contract let for the building of a new hotel for Palmyra, so that it may be said the town is really on a boom.

Mr. L. O. Haden has moved into his new three-story storehouse. It is a most creditable building, large, light and airy, and equipped with modern fixtures, making it in every respect an up-to-date store and office building. It is lighted with gas.

ELEPHANTS SLAIN FOR THEIR TUSKS

Sixty-Five Thousand Killed Every
Year to Furnish Supply
of Ivory.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.
[Special Correspondence of The Times-Dispatch.]

Zanzibar.

Sixty-five thousand elephants were killed in Africa last year, and more than a million and a half pounds of ivory were taken from them and shipped off to Europe. Of this figure one-third came from Zanzibar, another third was from Portuguese East and West Africa, and a large part of the balance was from the valleys of the Congo, Cape Colony, Uganda and German East Africa. I passed many long lines of porters carrying elephants' tusks on their heads or tied in long poles, which rested on their shoulders.

A Great Ivory Market.

Zanzibar has for years been one of the chief ivory markets of the world. There are companies here which have their buyers and traders scouring German and British East Africa, as well as the Portuguese possessions, farther south. These men take heads, tusks and other merchandise to trade with the natives, and when they have accumulated a cargo they send it on the heads of porters down to the seacoast. Much is now coming to Lake Vi-